

THE N/NEWS

NO. 42 JANUARY 1997

NEWSLETTER OF THE
NESBITT/NISBET SOCIETY
AUSTRALIA



STARTING POINT

LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION - Sitting at my desk on a sticky Monday afternoon in Melbourne in January, I find myself at a loss for something to say. I feel a bit like that songwriter from the 1970s (I think) who, being unable to think of a subject for a song, came up with a song about the time. I don't think an editorial called 'Twenty-five or six to four' would be of much interest to members, so I won't follow that particular example. Instead, I'll cut straight to the N/News at hand. As a way of avoiding future bouts of 'editorial block', guest editorials are always welcome. Feel free to pen your thoughts on any aspect of the N/N Society!

(NES)-BITS & PIECES

NISBIT ST, WINTON, QUEENSLAND: In N/News 41 we asked whether members could shed any light on the naming of this street, which was noted by Ian Clarke as he passed through Winton recently. James E Nisbet of Cremorne was quick to respond. In a letter to Ian M Nisbet he wrote:

"My record of the Winton 'Nisbit' Street would relate to my great uncle James **NISBET** who was a pioneer in that district and owned a number of properties just north of Winton where there is also a Nesbitt Creek on his 'Dirleton' property. Map enclosed.

"Bruce N has a copy of 'Pioneering Days in Queensland' concerning the area."

As an aside remark, James asks the eternal question "How often do others manage to get the spelling correct?!" *Not very* is clearly the answer.

Information from James E Nisbet, 53 Yeo Street, Cremorne 2090, NSW.

UNCLAIMED MONEY: According to the 'Victorian Government Gazette' (25 July 1996), under the heading 'Victorian Producers Co-op', a K Nisbet (of no known address) was owed proceeds of \$180.27. This seems very unlike someone of Scottish origin! If any member knows who this may be they could pass on the good news.

Information from Gary Nisbet.

N/NS IN THE NEWS

This section is for newspaper cuttings related to or featuring N/Ns. Now they will not only be in the news - they will be in the N/News! Please send any suitable cuttings you may come across to the Editor.

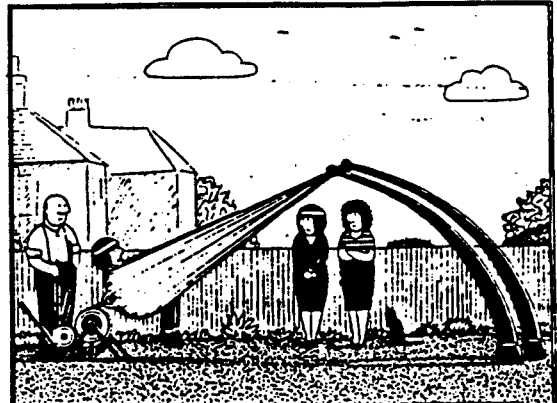


Left: Richard Naisbitt will show bird life to boys and girls

From an article on Healesville Sanctuary 'Royalauto', September 1996
Courtesy of Gary Nisbet

Reproduced from the UK Newsletter
Vol XIII, No 4, Christmas 1996

FRED by Rupert Fawcett



FRED HAD PROMISED TO GET
MR AND MRS NESBIT HOME IN TIME
FOR THE ARCHERS

From the 'Adelaide Advertiser', ?1996
Courtesy of Evelyn Clark, Eden Hills, South Australia

Family history

Could you provide some details of the family history of Dame Nellie Melba?
- L.R. (Edwardstown).

According to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Dame Nellie Melba was born Helen Porter Mitchell on May 19, 1861, at Burnley St, Richmond, Melbourne. She was the third child of David Mitchell, a Scot who had become a successful Melbourne contractor, and his wife Isabella Ann Dow. Melba's leaving school in 1880 was overshadowed by her mother's death, followed by that of a sister. Deciding on a change of scene, her father contracted to buy a sugar mill near Mackay in Queensland. It was there the 21-year-old Nellie encountered Charles Nisbett Frederick Armstrong, youngest son of

Sir Archibald Armstrong, Bart. They were married in Brisbane on December 22, 1882. In the following year a son, George, was born to her. Sequestered in a tin-roofed house, Melba became bored with the incessant rain and frustrated by a floundering marriage. There was little to allay her growing ambition to sing professionally, and on January 19, 1884, she left Mackay for her father's house in Melbourne, and never returned to her husband. When she died in Sydney on February 23, 1931, she left a son and a grand-daughter. She was buried at Lillydale, near Melbourne, in the district where her father had made his mark, and where she had established her home at Coombe Cottage.

Where to write

Questions should be addressed to What's Your Problem? The Advertiser, GPO Box 339, Adelaide, 5001, or delivered to the front counter of the Advertiser Building, 121 King William St, city. Please include name and address, not necessarily for publication.

SOCIETY NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTY 1996: Thirty-five or so N/Ns and guests celebrated another Christmas together at the home of Ian M and Joy on Saturday 7 December 1996. It was another excellent turnout for this annual Society event. Highlights of the night were Gary Nisbet's impersonation of a wild Scot (his headwear had to be seen to be believed), Robyn Meikle's performance of the Macarena (Fred Jensen was most notably impressed) and, of course, Christmas Dinner (another feast supplied by the Social Committee). As always, competition for raffle prizes was fierce, with the winners too numerous to mention. However, it is to be noted that this was about the first year in memory that Helen Nesbit went home prize-less! Thanks to Ian and Joy, the Social Committee and all who contributed to the evening.

N/N MERCHANDISING: One of the initiatives which has been considered by the Society for some time is the possibility of developing a range of N/N products. Some design work on an N/N badge/brooch was started last year and a merchandising subcommittee has been instituted to investigate other possible products.

In the meantime, our US comrades have taken a lead on this front. Members who had afternoon tea with Stu Nisbet back in November (see N/News 41, p5), will remember the N/N breastpocket on his jacket (reproduced at right). Stu can make these available to interested members. He has already put Ian M down for an advance order. Anyone who is interested in purchasing an N/N pocket should contact Ian M in the first instance for the details. Further information on our own efforts in this direction will be provided as they are available.



NEWS FROM THE UK: On the next page are reproduced two items from the most recent UK Society newsletter (Vol XIII, No 4, Christmas 1996) which may be of interest to Australian Society members. The first refers to an international gathering of South of Scotland clans; members who are travelling to Europe in May/June may like to take this event into account in their travel plans. The second item is an application to join the Edith Nesbit Society. This may be of interest to members with fond memories of Edith Nesbit's children's stories. *Apologies for having to reproduce these items sideways but it was the best way to make the most use of the available space!*

MESSAGE FROM DAVID NISBET (UK PRESIDENT)

ROOTS '97

Enclosed with your Newsletter No.4 you will find a Booking Form for Roots '97.

Roots '97 is an international Gathering of South of Scotland clans and families to be held in Dumfries from 30th May - 1st June, 1997. You will note from the programme of events that The Gathering begins on Friday, 30th at 6.30 p.m. The Main Event is Saturday, 31st, starting at 9 a.m. till 5 p.m., followed by a Cocktail Party, Music and Dancing. There will be a Drumhead Service on Sunday to end the Gathering.

The Society will have its own tent in the Clan Village and during the day we will hold our AGM. Entry to the Main Event is free, other items are costed as shown in the Booking Form. Details of accommodation can be obtained by ticking the appropriate box on the form and returning it with your cheque to Dumfries.

In 1996 we did not host a Gathering in Scotland and instead held two very successful events in Belfast and London. Roots '97 is the ideal opportunity to rekindle interest in the Society in Scotland and build for the future world-wide. Members will be able to renew contacts with old friends, meet new members and make contact with other Clans. There will be over forty families represented at Roots '97. I urge you all to make a special effort to support Roots '97 and make the event a memorable occasion for everyone.

Very best wishes to all members for Christmas and New Year.

See you all at Roots '97.

David Nisbet

Edinburgh, 3rd December, 1996.

THE EDITH NESBIT SOCIETY

Edith Nesbit (1858-1924) is best known as the author of "The Railway Children". She wrote some thirteen other children's stories, the most familiar including "The Treasure Seekers", "Five Children and It" and "The Phoenix and the Carpet".

She lived in seven homes around South-East London, including twenty years at Eltham. She also rented several holiday cottages in Kent, along the Medway and on Romney Marsh, where she spent her last years. Many of these locations appear in her stories. In her complex private life, she married Hubert Bland, a journalist and first Chairman of the Fabian Society, and numbered HG Wells, Bernard Shaw and Noel Coward amongst her friends.

The Edith Nesbit Society aims to celebrate the life and work of the author and her friends, by means of talks, publications, including a regular newsletter, and visits to relevant places. It will encourage republication of her out-of-print works, and further film adaptations. The annual subscription is £5 Single, and £7.50 Joint Membership (Organisations £10). To join, send your cheque (payable to the Society) to Terence Holland, Hon. Treasurer, 8 Marlborough Park Avenue, Sidcup, Kent DA15 9DJ (Tel: 0181-659 5776)

Please enrol me/us as member(s) of the Edith Nesbit Society.
I enclose my/our first annual subscription of

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Telephone no: _____

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO NSW/ACT N/N MEMBERS

Afternoon Tea
3.00 - 5.00 pm
Saturday 8 March
Graham and Amanda Nisbet
10 Merinda Ave
Epping 2121 NSW
Phone (02) 9869 1769 for further details

The first official N/N Society function to be held in the Sydney area will be at the home of Graham and Amanda Nisbet on Saturday 8 March. Ian M and Joy Nisbet will travel to Sydney for this event. Members in NSW and the ACT are encouraged to come along and make this the start of an active social group.

N/NEWS ON THE N/NET

This new section is designed to pass on some of the information currently floating around in the ether. Thanks to Ian M for passing copies of his e-mail on to the editor.

QUERY FROM SCOTT NESBITT: Mark Nesbitt from the UK Society received the following query from a Scott Nesbitt via e-mail:

"I would be interested in knowing more about my ancestry. I can trace back to a great-great grandpa Nesbitt named John or Richard who died while living in the Des Moines, IA USA area."

Mark responded by giving Scott the contact details for the US Branch of the N/N Society, including Stuart Nisbet's e-mail address. Mark passed on a copy of the correspondence to Ian M for information. If any Australian member has any information which could be useful to Scott Nesbitt, he can be reached on scott_nesbitt@southern-cal.k12.ia.us.

HIGHLANDER WEB MAGAZINE: The following message was received from Paul Monaghan, Managing Director, Catalyst (Highlands) Ltd:

"The Highlander Web Magazine sends you greetings from the Highlands of Scotland. We are the most read and recognized World Wide Web magazine in Scotland with approximately 80,000 people per week visiting us. If you have not discovered us please go to <http://www.catalyst-highlands.co.uk> and look around. The magazine contains lots of information and pictures on the history of Scotland, news from the area, reviews of books about Scotland, weekly columns and one of our most famous sections, our Highlander Internet Radio Station, which is the only one of its kind.

"We want to offer our help to your Clan Society in any manner we can as our general mission is the same: To communicate with people with Scottish heritage and inform them of what is going on in the mother land.

"... We also have merchandise which is made in Scotland. One of our efforts is to support the cottage industries of Scotland. For more information on what merchandise is available you can contact peadair@catalyst-highlands.co.uk.

"... If you have any other questions please E-mail us at sharma@catalyst-highlands.co.uk."

JAMES NISBET ADAMS: This query was received late last year:

"My name is Rosane McNamara (nee Dunn) and I live in Sydney. I am researching my husband's family tree. His mother's grandfather was James Nisbet Adams who, according to his son's birth certificate (Camperdown, Sydney), was born approx. 1863 in Lancashire. I'd appreciate any information or ideas on how to continue researching."

Anyone with any relevant information can contact Rosane at mcnama@ibm.net. If you don't have access to e-mail, please contact Ian M to pass a message on to Rosane.

OUT OF AFRICA: Mark Nesbitt received a snippet of information from US Society member Gail Jones about a 'Nesbitt Castle' in Zimbabwe, which she thought may be the subject of a page on the web. If so, no doubt we'll hear a bit more about it. Has anyone come across this place in their travels or reading?

N/Ns ON THE NET: Ian M received a long list of N/Ns and references to N/Ns which are present on the net. Some of the more interesting entries are:

Charlie Nesbitt

<http://www.writepage.com/authors/nesbittc.htm>

author of a reference guide, STIFFED on CHRISTMAS EVE - A Simple and Practical Guide to Tipping, and a planned series of fiction murder mysteries focusing on a homicide detective who is about to become a "born again" Christian and seeking God's help in solving murders!

The Nesbitt Company

<http://www.mestek.com/nesbitt.html>

The Nesbitt Company was founded in Atlantic City, New Jersey in the early 1900s by John J. Nesbitt, Sr. In 1916, the company moved to Philadelphia. During the decades to come, Nesbitt became a leader in the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning industry.

Mike Nesbitt's Dirt Late Model Page

http://www.olin.com/users/nesbitt/Tom_art.htm

Tom Nesbitt is my brother and has been a major player in the history of stock car racing in Thunder Bay, Ont. for the past thirty-seven years and he continues to win races today at the age of fifty-six.

Glover Nisbet Oil Co

<http://www.iu.net/glover/>

We distribute quality oil and lubricant products for all industrial, construction, and recreational uses.

Gemma Nesbitt, the designer

<http://newciv.org/GIB/befaft/B&A-27.HTML>

adds in a letter to The Natural Death Centre: Tony Carter is doing a second pod-shaped willow coffin for me. I have spent a lot of time working on a book I call (just a working title) The Good Tomb Guide, which covers the different traditions of body disposal in history - from paleolithic times to today's cryonics. I have not yet found a publisher for this.

I'm not sure if this last item is on the level, but it sure appealed to my warped sense of humour - Editor.

THE WANTED LIST

THOMAS FORBES NISBET: Gail Mowbray wrote recently seeking information on her grandfather Thomas Forbes Nisbet; b. 1839 (Leith, Scotland), d. 1926 (Sale, Victoria), m. Annie Maria Shingles. Gail has been unable to do any research herself for some time and thought that others in the N/N Society may be able to help her out.

Contact Gail Mowbray, 5 Macarthur St, Sale 3850, Victoria.

OBITUARY

DOUGLAS JOHN GREEN

It is with much regret that we note the passing of Doug Green of Romsey, Victoria on 11.12.96. Doug and his wife Amy (nee Nisbet) have been members of the Society for many years. Despite being quite ill at the time, Doug made it along to the 10th Anniversary Dinner and had a ball. We will miss his warm smile and quiet charm. Sincere condolences to Doug's family.

FAMILY SNIPPETS

This section is for brief snippets of news to keep members informed on the comings and goings of our extended family. Send snippets direct to the Editor, or scribble a note on your membership renewal form. One line is all we need!

Unfortunately, no snippets of information have been noted over the past couple of months - maybe because of the holiday season. Now that everyone is back from their summer break, there must be some news around in our extended family! How about it N/Ns? There must be some births, engagements, weddings, exam results, good news, etc. happening out there - all we need is one line to put it in 'Snippets'. If you don't feel like writing you can always phone something through. The Editor can be reached on (03) 9486 3970. His answering machine is ever ready, even if he's not!

NOTICE BOAR-D

(Upcoming events in the Local and Overseas Calendar for 1997)

13 February	Committee meeting
8 March	Sydney Function - home of Graham & Amanda Nisbet See page 5 for detatils
March/April	Annual Gathering See accompanying 'flier' for details
April	Newsletter 43

GENERAL COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT: Ian M Nisbet, 26 Walnut Rd, Nth Balwyn, Vic 3104, Aust.
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Joy Nisbet, Heather Ames, Lyndell Watson, Merryn Nisbet, Lesley Nisbet,
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 Brian S Nesbitt, 14 Davitt Cl, Isaacs, ACT 2607, Aust.
 James E Nisbet, 53 Yeo St, Cremorne, NSW 2090, Aust.

OVERSEAS CONTACTS:

USA: Mrs Gail Jones, 321 Dixon Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15216, USA.
UK: Peter W W Nisbet, 7 Stafford Pl, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS23 2QZ.

The Nesbitt/Nisbet Society is a Worldwide Clan Society